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SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR EUR/WE, S/GAC, AND OES/IHA; DEPARTMENT ALSO
PASS TO ESTH COLLECTIVE; HHS FOR OS/OGHA (TERRY GAY); CDC
FOR GLOBAL AIDS PROGRAM

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [TBIO](#) [SOCI](#) [KHIV](#) [SP](#)

SUBJECT: SPAIN: NEW HIV/AIDS INFECTION RATES CONTINUED TO
DECLINE IN 2004

REF: A. 04 MADRID 4290

[1](#)B. 04 MADRID 3835

[1](#)1. Health Ministry 2004 statistics on HIV/AIDS in Spain, released August 16, indicate that new AIDS diagnoses declined 6.6 percent from 2003 to 2004 (from 2,218 new infections in 2003 to 2,071 in 2004). A sampling of some interesting statistics includes:

-- 37.2 percent of those newly diagnosed were unaware that they were HIV positive;

-- 57.7 percent of this 37.2 percent were infected via unprotected sexual relations (with a roughly even split between those infected via unprotected homosexual and heterosexual sex);

-- 76.7 percent of all those who were newly diagnosed in 2004 were men;

-- The average age of those newly diagnosed was 40.3 years (the average age has increased steadily since 1985, when the figure was 28 years);

-- 45.7 percent of overall new infections were attributed to sexual transmission;

-- Despite the overall decline in new infections, transmissions due to sexual relations between homosexual men increased 1.8 percent from 2003 to 2004;

-- unprotected heterosexual relations was the cause of 52 percent of the new infections among females;

-- overall transmissions linked to heterosexual sex declined 1.9 percent from 2003 to 2004 (from 617 to 605 cases);

-- unprotected heterosexual sex was thus responsible for 29.2 percent of new infections in 2004;

-- New infections among intravenous drug users declined 12 percent from 2003 to 2004 (from 1,089 cases to 958);

-- four cases each were attributed in 2004 to mother-to-child transmission and blood transfusions;

-- 14.5 percent of those newly infected are foreign nationals, with 64.4 percent of these cases coming from developing country nationals (mostly Africans and Latin Americans);

-- the 2004 figures brings Spain to 71,039 total AIDS cases since the epidemic broke out in 1981;

-- this makes Spain the second most affected state in Western Europe after Portugal;

-- however, new infection rates have declined by 69 percent since 1996 (when anti-retroviral treatment became available).

[1](#)2. COMMENT: Our Reftel analysis of HIV/AIDS in Spain remains unchanged. Spain's HIV/AIDS program is well-funded, well-managed and has proven effective in containing the spread of the HIV/AIDS in Spain.

AGUIRRE